Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities (OOD) provides services to individuals who are blind and visually impaired. OOD’s Bureau of Services for the Visually Impaired (BSVI) offers services through its Independent Living Older Blind (ILOB) program to promote the independence and self-sufficiency for qualifying Ohio citizens.

Many older Ohioans with severe visual impairments may no longer be interested in employment, but want to retain their ability to live independently.
OOD Can Help By:

• Providing adaptive equipment
• Training in the use of assistive technology
• Providing orientation and mobility training to ensure safety and fall prevention
• Providing creative approaches to activities of daily living such as home skills and self-care skills

Eligibility

Assistance is provided to Ohioans who:

• Are age 55 or older
• Have a documented severe visual impairment, which makes competitive employment extremely difficult to obtain
• Have independent living goals that are feasible
• Require and can benefit from Independent Living services in order to obtain or maintain independent living

For more information, visit ood.ohio.gov or call 800-282-4536.

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MOST OOD SERVICES ARE FREE!

Programs provided by the Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities are funded, in whole or in part, with federal grants awarded by the U.S. Department of Education (DOE) or the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). For purposes of the Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) Program, including Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS), OOD received 78.7% of its funding through the DOE VR grant. In Federal fiscal year (FY) 2018, OOD received $100,336,097 in federal funds. Funds appropriated by the State covered 21.3% of the total costs, or $27,155,767. Of these federal funds, $15,050,415 is set aside for Pre-ETS. For purposes of the Independent Living Services for Older Individuals Who are Blind (OIB) Program, the federal grant received from DOE in FY 2018 paid 90% of the total costs incurred under the program. In FY 2018, OOD received $1,174,400 in federal grant funds. Funds appropriated by the State paid 10% or $130,489 of the total costs incurred under the OIB program.